

Episcopal Church
(Episcopal Mission)
Santee Indian Reservation
Knox County
Nebraska

HABS No. NE-20

HABS
NEB
54- SANTI, V,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Missouri River Basin Historical Studies
Region Two Office
National Park Service
Omaha, Nebraska

Episcopal Church
Santee Indian Reservation, Nebr.

HABS No. Nebr. ²⁰1¹/₂

HABS
NEB
S4-SANT.V.
1-

Owners- The Episcopal Diocese of South Dakota

Date of Erection- 1884

Architect- Not known. Appears to be the work of some Philadelphia architect, as it is in the style frequently found in the older Episcopal parishes in New Jersey and Eastern Pennsylvania. Moreover, Bishop Hare, first Bishop of South Dakota, came from Philadelphia and was related to several prominent families there.

Builder- Not known

Present Condition- Very good. Tower needs screening to keep out pigeons and other birds. The plywood panel showing on east elevation is only temporary, until the arrival of a new stained glass window.

Number of Stories- One,- with the steeple rising about 30 feet above the ridge of the roof.

Materials of Construction- Walls built of vertical boards, with the joints covered by means of 2¹/₂ inch battens. Horizontal strips are used to divide the walls into panels, and the side windows are arranged in groups. The steeple has interesting bracket work, and all the other details are of a scale and simple design appropriate to the material at hand.

Other Existing Records- The date cast in the bell is 1872, which means it has served two churches at this mission. According to Mrs. Alfred Riggs' story of her days at Santee, a cyclone blew down the first Episcopal church at Santee on the June day in 1870 that the Riggses arrived at the Reservation. A new church was built, and it stood until 1884 when it was destroyed by fire. The altar now in use formerly served the Episcopal church in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

Work planned and accomplished as a phase of the Missouri River Basin historical salvage program by the History Division, Region Two Office, National Park Service, Omaha, Nebraska.

Project supervised by Regional
Historian Merrill J. Mattes

Technical data by Historian
Ray H. Mattison

Field work performed under
the direction of Architect
John A. Bryan, 1952